

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 00901 272220Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 DHA-02 MCT-01 OPR-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
AID-05 PC-01 /063 W
-----272228 067667 /70

O R 272115Z FEB 77 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3487
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 0901

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINS, ES
SUBJECT: SITREP ON SUNDAY - CLARAMOUNT AND UNO DECIDE TO CONTINUE
PROTEST

REF: (A) SAN SALVADOR 0900, (B) SAN SALVADOR 0745

1. EARLY SATURDAY MORNING IT APPEARED (REFTEL A) THAT COL. CLARAMOUNT AND THE UNO OCCUPIERS OF SAN SALVADOR'S MAIN PLAZA HAD DECIDED TO GIVE UP THE SEIGE, AND IT ONLY REMAINED TO BE SEEN HOW PEACEFULLY THAT EXIT COULD BE EFFECTED. BY AFTER-NOON THAT DECISION, IF EVER MADE, HAD BEEN REVERSED. THE PROTESTORS, DOWN IN NUMBER TO THE CORE OF 2000 WILLING TO SLEEP ON THE COLD CONCRETE, REMAINED IN PLACE THROUGH THE NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 26-27. THEY HOPE TO MAINTAIN THE SEIGE THROUGH THE QUIET OF SUNDAY AND INTO THE NEW WEEK.

2. THE EMBASSY WAS INFORMED OF THE PLAN TO KEEP GOING BY COL. CLARAMOUNT HIMSELF. HE CONTACTED THE DATT THROUGH AN INTERMEDIARY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN SA 00901 272220Z

LATE SATURDAY AND SAID HE WANTED TO MEET. DATT AND POLOFF SPOKE WITH HIM FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR SATURDAY EVENING. HE ARRIVED WITH A LAWYER WHO APPEARS TO BE HIS PRINCIPAL POLITICAL ADVISOR, DR. ULISES FLORES (WHO EARLIER ACCOMPANIED HIM TO PRESENT A MEMORANDUM TO THE AMBASSADOR ON FEBRUARY 14 (REFTEL B)). COL. CLARAMOUNT BEGAN BY EXPLAINING THAT THE EMISSARIES HE HAD SENT THE PREVIOUS EVENING (REFTEL A) HAD "EXCEDED THEIR INSTRUCTIONS"

WHEN THEY SAID CLARAMOUNT WAS OFFERING THE GOVERNMENT A QUID PRO QUO, A PROMISE TO LEAVE THE PLAZA AT NOON SATURDAY IN RETURN FOR A PROMISE OF NO FORCE IN DISLODGING THEM. CLARAMOUNT SAID HE HAD SENT RAMIREZ RAUDA AND ALBERGUE "TO INFORM" THE EMBASSY OF THE INFORMATION HE HAD THAT THE GOES WAS PLANNING TO SEND THE GUARDIA AGAINST THE PROTESTORS. HE WANTED TO CONVEY HIS FEAR THAT THIS WOULD RESULT IN DEATH AND VIOLENCE AND DISASSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM RESPONSIBILITY. CLARAMOUNT INSISTED THAT HE HAD NOT REPEAT NOT TOLD THE INTERMEDIARIES TO PROMISE THAT UNO WOULD ABANDON ITS OCCUPATION THE FOLLOW-

ING DAY. HE CLAIMED THAT HE HAD MADE NO SUCH DECISION.

3. THE EMBASSY OFFICERS METRICULOUSLY DESCRIBED THEIR ACTIONS AND WORDS OF THE PREVIOUS EVENING. THE POLOFF SAID THAT RAMIREZ RAUDA AND ALBERGUE WERE EXPLICIT AND CLEAR IN DELIVERING THE MESSAGE THEY SAID WAS FROM CLARAMOUNT. HE SAID THE EMBASSY HAD ACTED OUT OF CONCERN FOR THE LIVES OF THOSE INVOLVED, NOT AS A PARTICIPANT IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. WHEN CLARAMOUNT AND FLORES SAID THAT THEY WERE INFORMED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD NOT BEEN REACHED, BUT ONLY THE MINDEF AND ROMERO, "WHO HOLDS NO POSITION IN THIS GOVERNMENT", HE WAS TOLD THAT SINCE SAVING LIVES WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE EMBASSY'S ACTIONS, WE CONTACTED THOSE WHO WERE AVAILABLE AND WERE KNOWN TO BE INVOLVED, RATHER THAN A SPECIFIC PERSON. HE WAS REMINDED THAT THESE EVENTS OCCURRED AT TWO AM, AND THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS ASLEEP AND NOT TO BE DISTURBED.

4. BOTH CLARAMOUNT AND FLORES INSISTED THAT THEY HAD NO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAN SA 00901 272220Z

PLAINTS ABOUT THE EMBASSY OFFIERS' REACTIONS, THAT, ON THE CONTRARY, THEY GREATLY APPRECIATED THE EFFORT TO AVOID BLOODSHED. CLARAMOUNT SAID THAT THE MISTAKE HAD BEEN HIS, THAT HE HAD SENT THE WRONG EMMISARIES WHO WERE "TOO TIMID" IN THE FACE OF DANGER. CLARAMOUNT AND FLORES SAID THEY WERE DETERMINED TO CONTINUE THE OCCUPATION OF THE PLAZA. THEY CLAIMED THAT THEIR CALCULATIONS SHOW THAT SOME 300,000 PERSONS HAVE NOW PARTICIPATED IN THIS "OUTBURST OF POPULAR REPUDIATION OF THE FRUADULENT ELECTIONS". THEY BELIEVE TIME AND MOMENTUM IS ON THEIR SIDE.

5. COMMENT: CLARAMOUNT IS OBVIOUSLY EXTREMELY WEARY, CERTAINLY PHYSICALLY AND PERHAPS MENTALLY. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE HAD NO SLEEP IN SEVENTY-TWO HOURS. HE LOOKED IT, AND SOUNDED IT. THE CONFUSION OF THE EMMISARIES AND WHAT ORDERS THEY WERE GIVEN POINTS UP WHAT APPEARS TO BE HAPPENING TO THE UNO LEADERSHIP. RAMIREZ RAUDA AND ALBERGUE ARE OLD LEADERS OF THE PDC. ULISES FLORES IS A BRILLIANT BEHIND THE SCENES POLITICAL ADVISOR OF NO KNOWN POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION. WHEREAS DURING

THE CAMPAIGN, POLITICAL SPEECH MAKING AND OTHER CIVILIAN PURSUITS, CLARAMOUNT WAS STAGE-MANAGED BY THE POLITICAL PROS OF THE PDC, THE CORONAL FEELS HIMSELF MORE IN HIS ELEMENT WITH THE PRESENT SITUATION, A BELEAGUERED MILITARY COMMANDER ISSUING ORDERS TO SUBORDINATES, IN THE FACE OF A POSSIBLE ENEMY ATTACK. THE CIVILIAN ADVISORS ARE NOW IN THE BACKGROUND, AND CORONEL CLARAMOUNT IS THE SUPREME MILITARY COMMANDER. HE REPEATEDLY SALTED HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE DATT AND POLOFF WITH MILITARY SLOGANS, AND COMMAND SAYINGS OF THE "WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, THE TOUGH GET GOING" VARIETY.

6. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WHAT APPEARS TO BE HIS PRESENT RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE THE PEACEFUL PROTEST DOESN'T MAKE MORE SENSE THAN WHAT APPEARED TO BE THE SURRENDER OF THE PREVIOUS EVENING. AS REFTEL REPORTED, THE MOMENTUM SEEMED TO BE RUNNING IN CLARAMOUNT'S FAVOR LATE FRIDAY. BY SITTING TIGHT, HE IS FORCING THE DECISION AS TO WHAT TO DO BACK ON THE GOVERNMENT. THE GOES WILL HAVE TO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAN SA 00901 272220Z

WEIGH THE RISK OF VIOLENCE AND POSSIBLE DEATH RESULTING FROM SENDING THE TROOPS IN, WITH THE EMBARRASSMENT CAUSED BY THE DISRUPTION CAUSED BY THE OCCUPATION AND GROWING NUMBERS OF PEOPLE IN EACH NIGHT'S DEMONSTRATION.

LOZANO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANSAA00901
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770068-0200
Format: TEL
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977025/aaaaadzh.tel
Line Count: 145
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 95e2f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SAN SALVADOR 900, 77 SAN SALVADOR 745
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3340294
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITREP ON SUNDAY - CLARAMOUNT AND UNO DECIDE TO CONTINUE PROTEST
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINS, ES, (CLARAMOUNT, ERNESTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/95e2f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009